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09/476,321	01/03/2000	CARL OPPEDAHN	ASCOP065USFU.	7662

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PERMAN & GREEN  
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EXAMINER

SHERR, CRISTINA O

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3621

DATE MAILED: 11/07/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/476,321

Applicant(s)

OPPEDAHL, CARL

Examiner

Cristina O Sherr

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 - 23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: .

### DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1 – 23 have been examined.

#### ***Specification***

2. The specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1 – 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gilham (US 6,308,165B1) in view of Pintsov et al (6,385,504B1).
5. Gilham discloses a system for authentication of mail pieces bearing bar-coded indicia, the system comprising first and second bar-code readers, said first and second bar-code readers differing in that said first bar-code reader has a lower rate of successful reading of bar-coded indicia than said second bar-code reader, said system defining a first paper path through said first bar-code reader and subsequently through a first collator, said system disposed to collate a mail piece bearing an indicium in a second paper path in the event of a successful reading of said bar-coded indicium by said first bar-code reader, said system disposed to collate mail pieces in a third paper path in the event of an unsuccessful reading of said bar-coded indicium by said first bar-

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code reader, said third paper path leading to said second bar-code reader, said system disposed to collate mail pieces in a fourth paper path in the event of a successful reading of said bar-coded indicium by said second bar-code reader, said system disposed to collate mail pieces in a fifth paper path in the event of an unsuccessful reading of said bar-coded indicium by said second bar-code reader (Col. 2 In 1 – 36); further comprising a third bar-code reader, said second and third bar-code readers differing in that said second bar-code reader has a lower rate of successful reading of bar-coded indicia than said third bar-code reader, said system further defining said fifth paper path through a second collator, said system disposed to collate mail pieces in a sixth paper path in the event of a successful reading of said bar-coded indicium by said second barcode reader, said system disposed to collate mail pieces in a seventh paper path in the event of an unsuccessful reading of said bar-coded indicium by said second bar-code reader (Col. 2 In 1 – 36).

6. Gilham does not however, disclose the system of claim 1, above wherein the first bar-code reader is less expensive than the second bar-code reader (Pintsov col. 3 In 10 – 67);

wherein the first bar-code reader is faster than the second bar-code reader (Pintsov col. 3 In 10 – 67);

wherein the first bar-code reader has lower scanning resolution than the second bar-code reader (Pintsov col. 3 In 10 – 67). Pintsov, however, does, as noted above. It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teaching of Gilham

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and Pintsov for more efficient and economical authentication of mail pieces without sacrificing accuracy.

7. Claims 6 - 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gilham (US 6,308,165B1) in view of Pintsov et al (6,385,504B1).

8. Gilham discloses a method for authenticating mail pieces bearing bar-coded indicia, the method comprising the steps of passing a mail piece bearing an indicium through a first bar-code reader, subsequently automatically collating said mail piece to a second paper path to a second bar-code reader in the event of an unsuccessful reading of said indicium by said first bar-code reader, said first and second bar-code readers differing in that said first bar-code reader has a lower rate of successful reading of bar-coded indicia than said second bar-code reader (Col. 2 ln 1 – 36);  
further comprising subsequently automatically collating said mail piece to a third paper path in the event of successful reading of said indicium by said second barcode reader (Col. 2 ln 1 – 36);  
further comprising subsequently automatically collating said mail piece to a fourth paper path to a third bar-code reader in the event of an unsuccessful reading of said bar-coded indicium by said second bar-code reader, said second and third bar-code readers differing in that said second bar-code reader has a lower rate of successful reading of bar-coded indicia than said third bar-code reader (Col. 2 ln 1 – 36);  
further comprising subsequently automatically collating said mail piece to a fifth paper path in the event of successful reading of said indicium by said third barcode reader (Col. 2 ln 1 – 36);

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further comprising subsequently automatically collating said mail piece to a sixth paper path in the event of unsuccessful reading of said indicium by said third barcode reader (Col. 2 ln 1 – 36);

further comprising the step of delivering the mail piece after said successful reading of said indicium by said second bar-code reader (Col. 2 ln 1 – 36);

further comprising the step of delivering the mail piece after said successful reading of said indicium by said third bar-code reader (Col. 2 ln 1 – 36);

further comprising subsequently automatically collating said mail piece to a fifth paper path in the event of an unsuccessful reading of said bar-coded indicium by said second bar-code reader (Col. 2 ln 1 – 36);

further comprising the step of returning the mail piece to the sender after unsuccessful reading of said bar code by said second bar-code reader (Col. 2 ln 1 – 36);

further comprising the step of returning the mail piece to the sender after unsuccessful reading of said bar code by said third bar-code reader (Col. 2 ln 1 – 36);

further comprising subsequently performing a cryptographic authentication of said indicium and automatically collating said mail piece to a seventh paper path in the event of successful authentication of said bar code by said second bar-code reader (Col. 2 ln 1 – 36).

9. Gilham does not, however, disclose the method of claim 6, above, further comprising subsequently performing a cryptographic authentication of said indicium and automatically collating said mail piece to an eighth paper path in the event of

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unsuccessful authentication of said bar code by said second bar-code reader (Pintsov col. 3 In 10 – 67);

further comprising subsequently performing a cryptographic authentication of said indicium and automatically collating said mail piece to a ninth paper path in the event of successful authentication of said bar code by said third bar-code reader (Pintsov col. 3 In 10 – 67);

further comprising subsequently performing a cryptographic authentication of said indicium and automatically collating said mail piece to a tenth paper path in the event of unsuccessful authentication of said bar code by said third bar-code reader (Pintsov col. 3 In 10 – 67). Pintsov, however, does, as noted above. It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teaching of Gilham and Pintsov for more efficient and economical authentication of mail pieces without sacrificing accuracy.

10. Claims 20 - 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gilham (US 6,308,165B1) in view of Pintsov et al (6,385,504B1).

11. Gilham discloses a system for authentication of mail pieces bearing bar-coded indicia comprising first, second, and third bar-code readers, said first and third bar-code readers differing in that said first bar-code reader has a lower rate of successful reading of bar-coded indicia than said third bar-code reader, said second and third bar-code readers differing in that said second bar-code reader has a lower rate of successful reading of bar-coded indicia than said third barcode reader, said system defining a first paper path through said first bar-code reader and subsequently through a first collator, said system disposed to collate a mail piece bearing an indicium in a second paper path

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in the event of a successful reading of said bar-coded indicium by said first bar-code reader, said system disposed to collate mail pieces in a third paper path in the event of an unsuccessful reading of said bar-coded indicium by said first bar-code reader, said third paper path leading to said third bar-code reader, said system defining a fourth paper path through said second bar-code reader and subsequently through a second collator, said system disposed to collate a mail piece bearing an indicium in a fifth paper path in the event of a successful reading of said bar-coded indicium by said second bar-code reader, said system disposed to collate mail pieces in a sixth paper path in the event of an unsuccessful reading of said bar-coded indicium by said second bar-code reader, said sixth paper path leading to said third bar-code reader said system disposed to collate mail pieces in a seventh paper path in the event of a successful reading of said bar-coded indicium by said third bar-code reader, said system disposed to collate mail pieces in an eighth paper path in the event of an unsuccessful reading of said bar-coded indicium by said third bar-code reader (Col. 2 In 1 – 36);

wherein the first and second bar-code readers are each less expensive than the third bar-code reader (Col. 2 In 1 – 36);

12. Gilham does not, however disclose the system of claim 20, above, wherein the first and second bar-code readers are each faster than the third bar-code reader (Pintsov col. 3 In 10 – 67); and

wherein the first and second bar-code readers each have lower scanning resolution than the third bar-code reader (Pintsov col. 3 In 10 – 67). Pintsov, however, does, as noted above. It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the



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teaching of Gilham and Pintsov for more efficient and economical authentication of mail pieces without sacrificing accuracy.

***Conclusion***

13. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

14. Pastor et al (US 5,390,251A) discloses a mail processing system including data center verification for mail pieces.

15. Pintsov (US 6,125,357A) discloses digital postal indicia employing machine and human verification.

16. Cordery et al (US 6,175,827B1) discloses a digital token generation and verification system accommodating token verification where addressee information cannot be recreated.

17. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cristina O Sherr whose telephone number is 703-305-0625. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8:30 to 5:00.

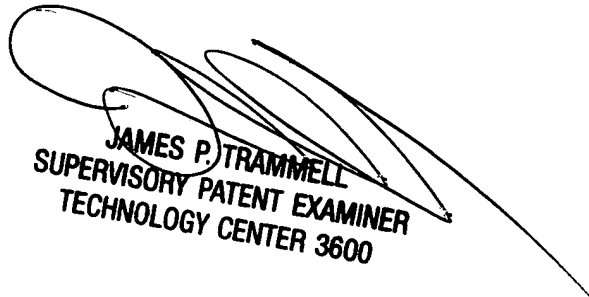
18. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Trammell can be reached on 703-305-9768. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-305-7687 for regular communications and 703-305-7687 for After Final communications.

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19. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

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November 3, 2002



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